

Amendment to the Claims

Claim 1 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture comprising a wax containing a superabsorbent and a channeling agent that conducts liquid water through the wax to the superabsorbent but does not conduct water vapor.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 1 wherein said wax is selected from the group consisting of petroleum based, animal, vegetable and synthetic waxes.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 1 wherein said channeling agent is selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline cellulose, gums, alginates and starches.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 1 wherein said superabsorbent is selected from the group consisting of sodium polyacrylate and potassium polyacrylate.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 5 wherein said superabsorbent is present by weight in the amount of between about 5% and 90%, and wherein said wax is present by weight in the amount of between 10% and 85%, and wherein the channeling agent is present by weight in an amount of between about 2% and 40%.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): A product comprising a porous member containing a liquid water absorbing mixture of a wax containing a superabsorbent and a channeling agent that conducts liquid water through the wax to the superabsorbent but does not conduct water vapor.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein said wax is selected from the group consisting of petroleum-based, animal, vegetable and synthetic waxes.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein said channeling agent is selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline cellulose, gums, alginates and starches.

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein said superabsorbent is selected from the group consisting of sodium polyacrylate and potassium polyacrylates.

Claim 12 (Original): A product as set forth in claim 11 wherein said superabsorbent is present by weight in the amount of between about 5% and 90%, and wherein said wax is present by weight in the amount of between 10% and 85%, and wherein said channeling agent is present by weight in an amount of between about 2% and 40%.

Claim 13 (Original): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein said porous member is a string.

Claim 14 (Original): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein said porous member is a form which has been fabricated from a sheet.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 2 wherein said channeling agent is selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline cellulose, gums, alginates and starches.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 15 wherein said superabsorbent is selected from the group consisting of sodium polyacrylate and potassium polyacrylates.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 1 wherein said superabsorbent is present by weight in the amount of between about 15% and 60%, and wherein said wax is present by weight in the amount of between 50% and 75%, and wherein said channeling agent is present by weight in an amount of between about 8% and 25%.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 1 wherein said superabsorbent is present by weight in the amount of between about 21% and 25%, and wherein said wax is present by weight in the amount of between 60% and 65%, and wherein said channeling agent is present by weight in an amount of between 12% and 14%.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): A product as set forth in claim 8 wherein said channeling agent is selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline cellulose, gums, alginates and starches.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): A product as set forth in claim 19 wherein said superabsorbent is selected from the group consisting of sodium polyacrylate and potassium polyacrylates.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein said superabsorbent is present by weight in the amount of between about 15% and 60%, and wherein said wax is present by weight in the amount of between 50% and 75%, and wherein said channeling agent is present by weight in an amount of between about 8% and 25%.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein said superabsorbent is present by weight in the amount of between about 21% and 25%, and wherein said wax is present by weight in the amount of between 60% and 65%, and wherein said channeling agent is present by weight in an amount of between about 12% and 14%.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture comprising a superabsorbent encapsulated in a wax having a channeling agent therein that conducts liquid water through the wax to the superabsorbent but does not conduct water vapor.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture comprising a liquid water absorbing compound encapsulated in a wax having a channeling agent therein that conducts liquid water through the wax to the superabsorbent but does not conduct water vapor.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing product comprising a porous member containing a superabsorbent encapsulated in a wax having a channeling agent therein that conducts liquid water through the wax to the superabsorbent but does not conduct water vapor.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing product comprising a porous member containing a liquid water absorbing compound encapsulated in a wax having a channeling agent therein that conducts liquid water through the wax to the superabsorbent but does not conduct water vapor.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture comprising water absorbing means for absorbing liquid water, means encapsulating said water absorbing means for preventing water vapor from being absorbed by said water absorbing means, and channeling means in said encapsulating means for channeling liquid water to said water absorbing means for absorption thereby, wherein the channeling agent conducts liquid water through the wax to the superabsorbent but does not conduct water vapor.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 1 wherein the superabsorbent is encapsulated in the wax.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein the superabsorbent is encapsulated in the wax.

Claim 30 (New): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 28, wherein exposing the channeling agent to water increases the permeability of the wax.

Claim 31 (New): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 28, further including a plurality of channels defined by the wax.

Claim 32 (New): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 31, wherein at least one of the plurality of channels is formed by the channeling agent and is fluidly connected to the superabsorbent.

Claim 33 (New): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 31, wherein at least one of the plurality of channels permits liquid water to pass to the superabsorbent but prohibits the passage of water vapor to the superabsorbent.

Claim 34 (New): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 31, wherein at least one of the plurality of channels comprises a micro channel.

Claim 35 (New): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 28, wherein the superabsorbent comprises one of sodium polyacrylate and potassium polyacrylate, the channeling agent comprises microcrystalline cellulose, and the wax comprises a petroleum-based wax.